## Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Survey 2005

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## **Abstract**

The number of pheasants seen during the 19-21 of April survey period by rural mail carriers per 100 miles driven was 0.82. This is a 2% increase from 0.81 observed in 2004. The number of pheasant seen per observer was unchanged from 2004 levels, at 1.2.

## **Methods**

Survey forms were mailed in early April to postmasters in 32 counties across Wisconsin's pheasant range. Postmasters were asked to distribute the forms to their rural mail carriers. Carriers were instructed to record their route number, distance driven, and the number and sex of pheasants seen along their route on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the third full week of April. Data from the returned surveys were entered into the DNR UNIX production server and analyzed using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

In an effort to expand coverage of the Rural Mail Carrier Survey, Grant county was added in 1995 to the list of counties that were surveyed. None of the totals for Grant county will be used in the statewide totals so a long term trend can be observed.

## Results

Rural mail carrier participation decreased by 6% in 2005. Six hundred and forty-one respondents saw 789 pheasants during the April 19, 20, and 21 survey period. This is a 3.7% decrease from the number of pheasants seen in 2004. During the survey period the weather was partly cloudy to cloudy with above average temperatures, and little rain; probably above average survey conditions. The counties with the highest number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven were Lafayette (8.90), lowa (4.07), Barron (1.93) and Fond Du Lac (1.13) (Table 1, Fig. 2).

The statewide average number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven increased to 0.82 in 2005, a 2% increase from 2004. The number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven is higher than the long-term mean of 0.60 (Figure 1). The number of pheasants seen per observer was unchanged from the 2004 ratio of 1.2.

 Table 1. Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Sightings 2003-2005.

2003 15 9 12 12 36 17 11 5 41 86 21	2004 38 11 2 11 51 30 9 6 34 135	2005 33 17 4 21 57 20 10 26 51	2003 1.16 0.18 0.52 0.30 0.44 0.42 0.59 0.42 1.03	2004 2.23 0.17 0.08 0.30 0.67 0.77 0.42 0.51 0.79	2005 1.93 0.38 0.19 0.57 0.82 0.71 0.49 1.01
9 12 12 36 17 11 5 41 86 21	11 2 11 51 30 9 6 34 135	17 4 21 57 20 10 26 51	0.18 0.52 0.30 0.44 0.42 0.59 0.42	0.17 0.08 0.30 0.67 0.77 0.42 0.51	0.38 0.19 0.57 0.82 0.71 0.49 1.01
12 12 36 17 11 5 41 86 21	2 11 51 30 9 6 34 135	4 21 57 20 10 26 51	0.52 0.30 0.44 0.42 0.59 0.42	0.08 0.30 0.67 0.77 0.42 0.51	0.19 0.57 0.82 0.71 0.49 1.01
12 36 17 11 5 41 86 21	11 51 30 9 6 34 135	21 57 20 10 26 51	0.30 0.44 0.42 0.59 0.42	0.30 0.67 0.77 0.42 0.51	0.57 0.82 0.71 0.49 1.01
36 17 11 5 41 86 21	51 30 9 6 34 135	57 20 10 26 51	0.44 0.42 0.59 0.42	0.67 0.77 0.42 0.51	0.82 0.71 0.49 1.01
17 11 5 41 86 21	30 9 6 34 135	20 10 26 51	0.42 0.59 0.42	0.77 0.42 0.51	0.71 0.49 1.01
11 5 41 86 21	9 6 34 135	10 26 51	0.59 0.42	0.42 0.51	0.49 1.01
5 41 86 21	6 34 135	26 51	0.42	0.51	1.01
41 86 21	34 135	51			
86 21	135		1.03	0.79	1 12
21		400		0.75	1.13
		106	1.19	1.79	1.67
_	26	2	0.75	1.22	0.11
7	24	7	0.36	1.16	0.33
52	99	133	1.62	4.14	4.07
90	31	33	2.12	0.96	0.88
9	0	13	0.78	0.00	0.85
5	15	2	0.23	0.65	0.07
11	85	130	0.76	4.79	8.90
3	10	11	0.10	0.31	0.34
8	9	6			0.25
34	34	7			0.20
6	8	17	0.45	0.81	1.01
23	49		0.74		1.06
19	37		0.65		0.88
					0.22
	23	21			0.57
		Į.			0.92
					0.21
		17			0.51
	9	5	!		0.12
					0.39
			:		0.28
					0.20
41	0	0	5.34	0.00	0.00
660	819	789	0.68	0.81	0.82
	7 52 90 9 5 11 3 8 34 6 23 19 3 21 45 15 16 9 27 27 4	7 24 52 99 90 31 9 0 5 15 11 85 3 10 8 9 34 34 6 8 23 49 19 37 3 3 21 23 45 49 15 7 16 28 9 9 27 23 27 15 4 41 41 0	7       24       7         52       99       133         90       31       33         9       0       13         5       15       2         11       85       130         3       10       11         8       9       6         34       34       7         6       8       17         23       49       28         19       37       33         3       3       6         21       23       21         45       49       44         15       7       4         16       28       17         9       9       5         27       23       14         27       15       13         4       41       4         41       0       0	7       24       7       0.36         52       99       133       1.62         90       31       33       2.12         9       0       13       0.78         5       15       2       0.23         11       85       130       0.76         3       10       11       0.10         8       9       6       0.35         34       34       7       0.78         6       8       17       0.45         23       49       28       0.74         19       37       33       0.65         3       3       6       0.14         21       23       21       0.84         45       49       44       0.94         15       7       4       0.66         16       28       17       0.44         9       9       5       0.15         27       23       14       0.91         27       15       13       0.58         4       41       4       0.20         41       0       0       5.34	7         24         7         0.36         1.16           52         99         133         1.62         4.14           90         31         33         2.12         0.96           9         0         13         0.78         0.00           5         15         2         0.23         0.65           11         85         130         0.76         4.79           3         10         11         0.10         0.31           8         9         6         0.35         0.38           34         34         7         0.78         0.89           6         8         17         0.45         0.81           23         49         28         0.74         1.60           19         37         33         0.65         1.03           3         3         6         0.14         0.11           21         23         21         0.84         0.49           45         49         44         0.94         0.76           15         7         4         0.66         0.29           16         28         17         0.44

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Not included in totals

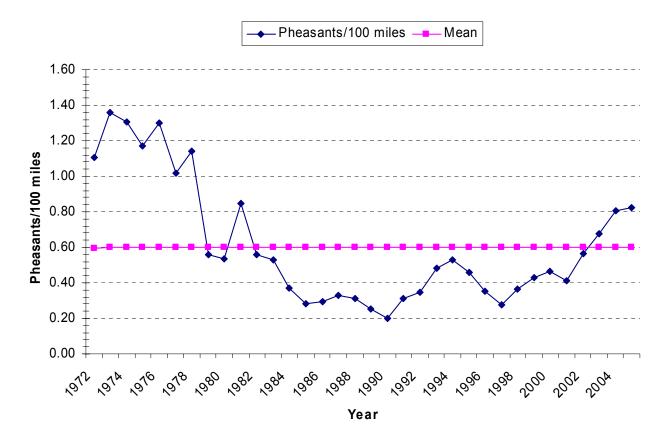


Figure 1. Pheasants seen per 100 miles driven, 1972-2005.

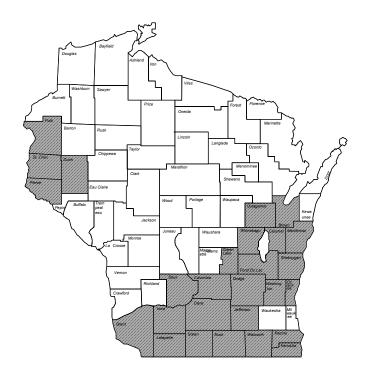


Figure 2. Counties encompassing all or some of Wisconsin's primary pheasant range.